

thePost

Vol. 83, No. 5

Published for the Fort Dix Community since 1942

February 8, 2008

NEWSNOTES

Dix Tax Center offers return help

The Fort Dix Tax Center, located in Building 5407, is open Monday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tax returns will be prepared by appointment only; please call 609-562-6859 for an appointment. Fort Dix is able to provide free basic tax preparation and e-filing to military personnel and their families through the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Militaryonesource.com also provides free on-line income tax preparation for active duty, National Guard, and Reserve service members and their families. Free tax preparation and electronic filing are also available through the Internal Revenue Service at www.irs.gov; click on the link "Use Free File to Prepare Your Taxes."

Hearts Apart program hosts family open house

Army Community Service Hearts Apart is having an Open House on Tuesday, Feb. 12 from 10 a.m. to noon. Hearts Apart offers support to Family Members who are left behind due to the sponsor's mission requirements. The organization provides a supportive group setting for activities, opportunities to learn about available resources, and to network with each other during the absence of the sponsor. Come to the Open House to meet and connect with other Family Members and to help plan our Calendar of Events for the year. Lunch will follow the meeting. For more information and registration call ACS at 562-2767.

Dix/McGuire Career Fair offers career opportunities

Looking for a career change or just looking at job availability in our area? Join the crowd at the McGuire/Dix Mini Career Fair Feb. 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the McGuire Community Club. Representatives from more than 15 Federal, State and local agencies will be on site providing information about available jobs and career opportunities and taking resumes. To better prepare you for taking new steps in your career, ACS is hosting a resume writing seminar Feb. 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call 562-2186 for details on how to polish your professional image before setting out on a job search.

WEATHER

FRIDAY -- Slight chance of rain showers, high of 47 degrees and overnight low of 32.

SATURDAY -- Sprinkles in morning with a high of 47 and low of 27 degrees.

SUNDAY -- Snow flurries possible, daytime high of 32 and low of 13 degrees.

MONDAY -- Fair and sunny, daytime high of 33 and overnight low of 16 degrees.

TUESDAY -- Cloudy with drizzles and chance of snow flurries, high of 37 and low of 29 degrees.

WEDNESDAY -- Cloudy, slight chance of showers, high of 44 and overnight low of 32 degrees.

THURSDAY -- Partly cloudy, chance of showers, high of 44 and low of 38 degrees.

Town Hall: State of Fort Dix



Ed Mungin

DIRECTING THE POST -- Fort Dix leaders join Soldiers and civilian employees at the Feb. 6 Town Hall Meeting at Timmermann Center. From left, Robert Lichtneger, deputy to the commander; David Peckham, director of public works; Sarah Johnson, director of families, welfare and recreation; Steve Melly, director of public safety; Dennis Bush, director of plans, training and mobilization; and Lt. Col. Roger Cotton, deputy commander.

Joint Basing, winter safety top agenda for installation

Carolee Nisbet
Editor

The future of Fort Dix and a variety of current topics filled the agenda Feb. 6 at the Fort Dix Town Hall Meeting in Timmermann Center.

Topping the list was a review of a recent survey documenting how employees perceive the organization.

Col. Ronald Thaxton, commander, summarized the Installation Management Command 2007 Organizational Self-Assessment feedback report.

"The command and leadership were evaluated as mature," Thaxton told the sparse crowd in the auditorium, "but the workforce is not getting the word."

Thaxton said the survey results show that many employees don't know the post's strategic plan or the vision for the installation.

The next steps for the organization are to continue deployment of the Fort Dix vision and strategy to all levels of the workforce; to create action plans with measurable results and

(continued on page 3)

Bush gives Congress \$515.4B defense budget

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4, 2008 -- A 3.4 percent military pay raise, a 2.9 percent civilian raise, money to continue to grow the Army and Marines and a funding increase to maintain readiness are major aspects of the fiscal 2009 defense budget request President Bush sent to Congress today.

The defense budget request is for \$515.4 billion -- a \$35.9 billion increase over the 2008 level. The total federal budget request for fiscal 2009 is \$3.1 trillion.

Defense officials said five priorities drive the budget request: winning

the war on terror, increasing ground combat capabilities, improving readiness, developing future combat capabilities and improving servicemembers' quality of life.

"The budget request provides the resources needed to prevail in current conflicts, while preparing the department for a range of challenges the nation may face in the years ahead," Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said during a Pentagon news conference this afternoon.

He pointed out that the defense request amounts to about 3.4 percent of U.S. gross domestic product.

"To give you some basis for comparison, ... during the Korean War the percentage of GDP going to defense was about 14 percent, and during

Vietnam it was about 9 percent,"

Gates said.

The budget funds the operations, training, recruiting and equipping of 2.2 million personnel in the Defense Department.

The service portions of the budget are \$140.7 billion for the Army,

\$149.2 billion for the Navy and

Marine Corps and \$143.8 billion for the Air Force.

The request is broken into four major funding areas: military pay and health care; family housing and facilities; operations, readiness and support; and strategic modernization.

Military pay and health care would receive \$149.4 billion, with pay and benefits receiving \$107.8 billion and health care \$41.6 billion.

Family housing and facilities account for \$23.9 billion, with \$3.2 billion going to privatizing 12,324 more homes for servicemembers. Base realignment and closure costs are set at \$9.5 billion, fully funding 25 base closures and 24 major realignments.

The 2009 request also asks Congress to approve \$11.2 billion for training centers and base infrastructure needed as the Army and Marine Corps continue to grow.

The budget continues funds for increasing the size of the Army and Marine Corps. Last year, the overall end-strength increase was set at 65,000 soldiers and 27,000 Marines through fiscal 2012.

(continued on page 8)

Fellowship on menu for Prayer Breakfast

Inspiration and fellowship will be on the menu March 12 at Club Dix for the annual Fort Dix Installation Prayer Breakfast from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Chap. (Col.) Ronald Casteel, Command Chaplain, US Army Reserve Command, will be on hand to deliver the keynote address. He has served as the senior chaplain for the command since November 2005.

Musical offerings for the annual event will be presented by world-renowned Christian and gospel musicians Eddy and Patricia Nubine. Eddy is an active duty staff sergeant serving as a member of the Army Materiel Band and as the Library NCOIC at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md. Patricia Nubine is a noted spiritual vocalist, evangelist and author.

Menu for the breakfast will include scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, country fried potatoes, chipped beef, cereal, biscuits, fruit, coffee, tea and juice served buffet style in the main ballroom.

The entire Fort Dix community is invited to gather to enjoy this time of inspiration and fellowship.

Contributions for Prayer Breakfast tickets are \$3 each, and they are available now from Sandy Horner 562-4252, Marcia Gose 562-6258, Vera Borum 562-3255, Anne Lamkin 562-2064, Ed Vanzozi 562-4355, Leslie Pelegan 562-2858, Kelly Cesar 562-3353, Veverly Wakefield 562-4036, Deborah Wilkinson 562-4001, or Neen Raspa 562-5432.

Tickets for the event usually go quickly, and it is unlikely there will be any remaining at the door.



Wayne Cook

Wrestling with the fate of the Free World

The Russian Assassin applies pressure to a rear choke hold on the mighty Patriot as he momentarily has the upper hand during a professional wrestling match at the Griffith Field House Jan. 31. The local fans enjoyed matches from the World's Greatest Wrestling promotion of East Coast Professional Wrestling out of Lake Hiawatha and sponsored by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Directorate. See more wrestling on page 12.

culture

Patron savors life of the mind and pro wrestling, too

Jennifer McCarthy
Public Affairs Staff
with
Steve Snyder

Sending me to cover wrestling matches is like sending a nun to review a burlesque show. But surprise, surprise. I enjoyed it.

I had the pleasure of attending matches modestly advertised as being under the auspices of the "World's Greatest Wrestling" organization which were held at Griffith Field House on Jan. 31.

I really got into it.

Staff Sgt. Adam Navarro from the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade served as my tour guide to the steamy, glandular world of professional wrestling that night. And he did a superb job. Without Adam's finely-textured tutelage, I might have gone home with a naive belief that a Flying Lariat was the name of a ranch in Texas or that Slingshot Suplex was something you hoped every foundation undergarment contained.

Adam also taught me that heckling and arguing with wrestlers was not only okay but good form. Yelling at someone who is there to entertain you seems a bit odd to me. It goes against everything countless mothers have preached to their offspring about being well behaved in public. But I think that every once in a while, at least, it's good to let the Russian Assassin know that the Patriot will always stand tall. You just have to keep repeating it to the brute.

Well, my yelling must have helped because in the end the Patriot triumphed. It was almost enough to restore my faith in humanity.

Now, this may come as shock to some people while others will rush to deny it but I strongly suspect that pro wrestling is scripted. There you have it! An expose to ring down through the centuries! The matches have pre-determined outcomes.

Why do I accept such heresy?

Well, I don't know about you, but if someone is going to pick me up and twist me over their head before slamming me down onto the mat, I'm not going to help them pick me up. But aficionados don't attend matches because they're searching for authenticity. Pro wrestling is less a sport and a spectacle. And it should be judged by that standard.

There were varying degrees of showmanship displayed that night. In some matches, the absence of real, brutal contact was obvious to the most obtuse spectator. Such a lack of illusion ruins the magic of a moment, a bit like glimpsing the cards inside a clumsy magician's sleeve. But the crowd seemed willing to forgive all, manically focusing on the next body slam or flashy costume.

Attempting to help me understand the allure of adults hurling one another around on a mat, Adam likened pro wrestling to "male soap operas." And his was an insightful distinction.

All of the elements that make daytime dramas so appealing to so many are there: the timeless tale of good versus evil, the meek struggling to defend what they have (if not to inherit the earth), in this case, a championship belt; the will to wiggle, jump or escape from the jaws of doom looming over you from the frequently grotesque features of an oversized goon, and going into battle with nothing but a tiny pair of shorts covering your trembling buttocks.



Steve Snyder

Long-standing grudges play out on the mat as does, I am informed, the occasional romance.

Fort Dix fans were treated to one match featuring woman wrestlers. While I am far from the target demographic for "chick" wrestling, I realize that males are not alone in their mastery of all that is vicious and ruthless. So the lack of gore in the women's war disappointed me. Oh, well, maybe next time.

I sat behind teen-age boys from the New Jersey Youth Challenge Program. I didn't want to cramp their style but their was no danger of that. They were gentlemen who understood how to get into the panache of the wrestling mystique.

The youths booted, cheered and loudly called for a table match (when wrestlers throw each other into a table in hopes of breaking it, which they did later on in the evening). But as verbally rowdy as the kids were, hardly a naughty word rang from their throats all night. Exhibiting manners at a wrestling match reflects a savoir faire far above what many adults can or care to, muster.

I'm happy, then, to have experienced the thrill of smack-downs. While I won't be trading in season opera tickets for ringside seats anytime soon, my nose will no longer turn up at savoring mayhem on the mat.

On the weekend following Thursday night's donnybrook I split for a more familiar cultural milieu. I decided to slice off a piece of life in the Big Apple.

I love New York. I love that one of the greatest cities on the planet is just over an hour away from Fort Dix. I love that endless cultural options of every size and shape are at my beck and call, 24 hours a day.

Originally, I planned to go up to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to check out their new fashion exhibit and also to catch the renovated Greek sculpture gallery. But Sunday was a nice day and I just couldn't get up for dealing with the tourist bustle at the Met. So, instead, I snuck down into the bowels of the subway, on my way to the New York Public Library.

A library may seem to be an unlikely tourist attraction but New York's finest is no ordinary institution. The Beaux Art marvel was built in 1894 and has lost none of its charm since then. For people who harbor book-lust in their heart of hearts, the building is more of a temple than library, the gleam of wood, the glow of green table lamps, a reading room crowded with book lovers, note takers scribbling furiously, shushing you if you become too loud.

The New York Public Library is one of the world's premier research libraries, too. Whatever you're looking for the library probably has. And if you're willing to wait, they will



posterized wrestling photo by Steve Snyder

Is professional wrestling ballet for the masses?



images.google.com

ORIGINAL HIPSTER -- Works and art honoring Jack Kerouac, above, and other prominent writers of the Beat Generation are featured in a display called "Beatific Soul," currently running at the New York Public Library.

probably let you look at it. Many notable writers have hung out at the library over the years. The Beat Generation's founding father, Jack Kerouac, was among them. New York's bastion of books sponsors various exhibits throughout the year and currently they're running one in honor of Kerouac called *Beatific Soul*.

I have a confession. I do not love the Beats. And it's not because I can't appreciate what they were trying to do with written words. It's just that in college my writing teacher trau-



http://images.google.com

Was he thinking about wrestling?

matized me. She was the ex-wife of LeRoi Jones, aka Amiri Baraka. In my house we referred to her, not so affectionately, as the Troll Queen, as much for the wiry, black hair that sprouted from a mole on her chin as for her disposition. It's wrong to transpose my dislike of a teacher onto an entire oeuvre of writers but there it is.

If I felt differently about Kerouac I'm sure I would have loved the exhibit in his honor. *Beatific Soul* explores Kerouac's evolution as a writer along with his spiritual passage from Christianity to Buddhism and back again. It is a very well done exhibit featuring music, photos, and tokens from the legendary writer's life that help merge the viewer into forming a complete picture of the mercurial hipster. I think every



posterized wrestling photo by Steve Snyder

Is professional wrestling ballet for the masses?



images.google.com

ORIGINAL HIPSTER -- Works and art honoring Jack Kerouac, above, and other prominent writers of the Beat Generation are featured in a display called "Beatific Soul," currently running at the New York Public Library.

probably let you look at it. Many notable writers have hung out at the library over the years. The Beat Generation's founding father, Jack Kerouac, was among them. New York's bastion of books sponsors various exhibits throughout the year and currently they're running one in honor of Kerouac called *Beatific Soul*.

I have a confession. I do not love the Beats. And it's not because I can't appreciate what they were trying to do with written words. It's just that in college my writing teacher trau-



http://images.google.com

Was he thinking about wrestling?

matized me. She was the ex-wife of LeRoi Jones, aka Amiri Baraka. In my house we referred to her, not so affectionately, as the Troll Queen, as much for the wiry, black hair that sprouted from a mole on her chin as for her disposition. It's wrong to transpose my dislike of a teacher onto an entire oeuvre of writers but there it is.

If I felt differently about Kerouac I'm sure I would have loved the exhibit in his honor. *Beatific Soul* explores Kerouac's evolution as a writer along with his spiritual passage from Christianity to Buddhism and back again. It is a very well done exhibit featuring music, photos, and tokens from the legendary writer's life that help merge the viewer into forming a complete picture of the mercurial hipster. I think every



www.cromwell-intl.com

BIBLIOPHILE'S BOUNTY -- In addition to being one of the world's premier research libraries, the New York Public Library features various fascinating exhibits throughout the year, paying homage to the old adage that life imitates art.

scrap of paper Jack ever wrote on, drew on or even looked at is on display. Marking 50 years since publication, the crown jewel of the exhibit is the original, typewritten 120-foot scroll of *On the Road*, Kerouac's paean to a life in transit, foot-loose and fancy-free. It's a vision that's inspired scores of writers who, unfortunately, lacked the master's talent.

The scroll will be taken off view on Feb. 22 while the exhibit will be on display until March 16.

Inspired by the spiritual odyssey of a great writer, pondering his metaphors for life and reveling being surrounded by good books, I continued my own journey, walking a few blocks over to the Morgan Library and Museum.

The Morgan is another gem-of-a-museum that most tourists tend to avoid. Built to house the personal library of robber baron John Pierpont Morgan at the start of the 20th century, the Morgan is located at 225 Madison Avenue and contains some of the most valuable published materials. Collections include a copy of the Declaration of Independence, a Gutenberg Bible, illuminated manuscripts, ancient Babylonian seals, and large numbers of children's book collections. The library also has restored Morgan's personal reading room, the rotunda, and the librarian's office.

These rooms are worth a visit on their own. Resplendent with red silk walls, a medieval coffered ceiling and fine (although not the best) examples of heavyweights in medieval art plastered on their walls, the rooms make it a pleasure to stroll through, seducing one with an alluring ambience.

It's fun to imagine what it must have been like to be so wealthy that you could build an entire library just to house your books. For those eager to taste a bit of that lifestyle, the library offers visitors use of a dining room. Reservations are required to dine there, though, but patrons taking the trouble can feast in Morgan's original family dining room from a menu that specializes in authentic early 20th century cuisine.

For the less-formally inclined, the museum also has a cafe where thirst, not reservations, is the only entrance requirement.

An exhibit prominently featured at the Morgan Library until April 13 is *Close Encounters*, a display of photographs by Irvin Penn that has created quite a media buzz since its initial unveiling.

The first major collection of photographs acquired by the library, these 67 portraits high-



Copyright by Irvin Penn, London, 1950

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS Irvin Penn's photographic portraits of artists and writers are among the exhibits currently on display at the Morgan Library and Museum. That's poet T.S. Eliot, above.

conclusion that professional wrestling holds the solution to the famous mind-body problem that has so bedeviled philosophers over the centuries.

The solution is to feed the mind with the great works and exhibits powering New York City's majestic libraries. But, at the same time, body slam those who annoy you. And do it with care less about a photo's lighting and composition, the pictures are still fun to look at just to get visual vibes about writers and artists you hear about but never seem to see.

Could you, for instance, pick T.S. Eliot out of a crowd or how about spotting a young, beardless Jerry Garcia?

Places like the Morgan usually require a certain amount of decorum. For some reason I have never understood, museums tend to make people talk in hushed tones, as if one were in church or at funeral. Now I can appreciate this but just think it curious that we should take such care in our tone around pictures and books.

Is art, perhaps, the last sanctuary of the sacred in an increasingly secular society?

I left such heavy thoughts back in the city. It's been quite a week. My introduction to professional wrestling was about as foreign as you can get to any intellectual pretensions one subscribed to. I've come to the



Steve Snyder

ROAR OF THE CROWD -- Soldiers cheer their favorites at the pro wrestling show. For fans wrestling is almost a participatory sport where they can voice their opinions and often interact with the wrestlers themselves.

the Post

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military. Contents of The Post are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or Fort Dix. It is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office, Fort Dix, AFRC-FA-PA-CL, Fort Dix, N.J. 08640-5075, (609) 562-5037. Circulation: 9,400.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser/user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

All editorial content of The Post is prepared, edited, provided, and approved by the Public Affairs Office of Fort Dix. The Post is printed by The Burlington County Times, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with DA, under exclusive written contract with Fort Dix. The printer is responsible for commercial advertising.

The appearance in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army, or the Burlington County Times, Inc., of the products or services advertised. Queries on news content will be answered by the Fort Dix Public Affairs Office. For advertising call (609) 871-8087.

Visit Fort Dix on the Internet at <http://www.dix.army.mil>

Post Commander Col. Ronald R. Thaxton

Public Affairs Officer/Editor Carolee Nisbet
PA Specialist/Webmaster David Moore
PAO Automation/Admin Beverly Wakefield
PAO Media Relations Pascual J. Flores
PAO OpEd/Features Steve Snyder
PAO Community Relations Gerry Zanzalari
PAO Writer/Editor Jennifer McCarthy
PAO Writer/Editor Lisa Evans
Fort Dix Public Affairs Office Contract Workers
Wayne Cook, Ed Mingin, Shawn Morris, Ryan Morton

WE GUARANTEE DELIVERY of your Fort Dix Post
The delivery of your Fort Dix Post newspaper is handled by the Burlington County Times. If for some reason you are not satisfied with the service of your newspaper, please call us direct, 871-8080.

SHOW STOPPERS -- The Jan. 31 "World's Greatest Wrestling" extravaganza at Griffith Field House would be a crowd-pleaser with snots like the Russian Assassin (strangling the Patriot, top left) and King Kong Bundy joining blond bomber Alexa Thatcher (standing, center), throwing Becky Bayless around with some tricky moves, and acrobatic Jay Santana staging some smashingly good smackdowns.

Town Hall delivers update

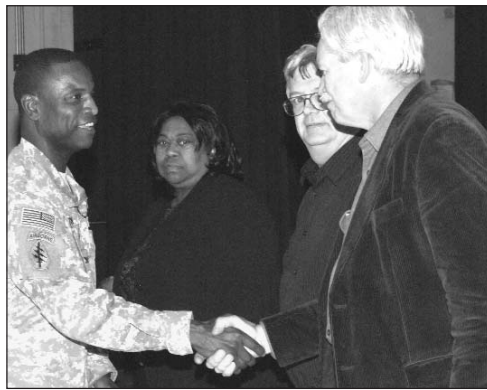
(continued from page 1)
objectives, and mandating regularly scheduled staff meetings at all levels to ensure that information reaches all employees.

Thaxton also gave the group an update on Joint Basing. The document launching the initiative was signed Jan. 22, directing that installation support for the joint base will be transferred to the Air Force, along with real property and the funding stream authority. Initial Operating Capability for the joint base will be Jan. 31, 2009, and full capability is set for Oct. 31, 2009. The installations are now working on the memorandum of agreement and preparation for a table top exercise in May.

Thaxton emphasized that there is no certainty about jobs within the new structure, and some employees may lose jobs as the consolidation goes into effect. New elements moving onto post as part of the same BRAC will mean some new jobs at Fort Dix at the same time.

The commander also updated the group on the Offsite Strategy Conference and the complex planning for transition to joint basing and the Joint Mobilization and Training Center Fort Dix.

Safety Director Leo Falanga briefed the group on Winter Driving Tips, encouraging both civilians and Soldiers to ensure their vehicles are prepared for driving in inclement weather and that they are ready to deal with other drivers on the road. Radiator hoses, antifreeze, lights, battery, radio, oil and filters, tires, wipers, exhaust systems and engine thermostats should all be checked and



Ed Mingin

AWARDS -- Col. Ronald Thaxton, installation commander, congratulates Donna Warren, Daniel Wilkinson and Harold Rochette during an awards presentation at the Feb. 6 Town Hall Meeting. The trio, from the Directorate of Logistics, was among 19 people receiving awards for excellence during the recent Organizational Inspection Program. Additional names are listed below.

repaired if needed to ensure that drivers don't get stranded on the road in bad weather.

Thaxton presented 21 awards at the conclusion of the meeting, 19 Department of Army Achievement Medals for superior performance during the recent Organizational Inspection and two environmental awards.

Fort Dix employees receiving the awards were Tiffany Brotherton, Harold Rochette, Donna Warren and Daniel

Wilkinson, Directorate of Information Management; Earnest Yeager, Directorate of Family Morale Welfare and Recreation; Charles Chapman, Directorate of Plans, Training and Mobilization, and Wanda James, Plans, Analysis and Integration Office.

Also receiving awards were Loren McMillen and Roger Smith, who were presented with Environmental Excellence Awards for their outstanding environmental stewardship of Fort Dix.

Guard Bureau adds star

Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
Special to American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 2008 -- The position of the chief of the National Guard Bureau has been elevated to a four-star billet 100 years after the bureau came into existence. The chief of the Na-

tional Guard Bureau also became a principal advisor to the secretary of defense through the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as a result of a Jan. 28 stroke of the president's pen that triggered the most sweeping changes for the National Guard in 100 years.

The Division of Militia Affairs, the precursor of the mod-

ern National Guard Bureau, came into existence in February 1908, according to Michael Doubler, a retired colonel who is one of the Guard's preeminent historians.

The first chief was Col. Erasmus Weaver, who served from 1908-11. The stature of the chief's office has been progressively increased during the century since.

On Jan. 28, President Bush signed the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2008, which includes provisions that:

— A bipartisan council of governors advises the secretary of defense, the Department of Homeland Security, and others on National Guard matters.

— The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff determines the feasibility of increasing the number of U.S. Northern Command reserve-component members.

— Up to 15 reserve-component general officers serve at combatant commands, an increase from 10.

— The National Guard Bureau becomes a joint activity of the Department of Defense. Previously, it was a joint bureau of the Army and the Air Force.

— The bureau's chief becomes a principal advisor to the secretary of defense through the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

— The grade of the position of the chief of the National Guard Bureau increases to a four-star general.

A driving force behind many of the changes in the NDAA is the transformation of the National Guard from a Cold War strategic reserve to today's operational reserve.

The vast bulk of the major reforms of the National Guard included in the bill were derived from the National Guard Empowerment Act of 2007.

The provisions of the NDAA that affect the National Guard are among many others that affect the nation's armed forces.

The NDAA also:

— Gives servicemembers a 3.5 percent pay raise;

— Includes the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act to improve support for wounded troops and their families, including providing increased treatment closer to home rather than at the base from which the servicemember deployed; and

— Lowers the eligibility age for retirement by three months for each 90 days a Guard member serves on certain types of active duty. The active duty must be served after the NDAA was enacted, and eligibility cannot be reduced below 50 years of age.

It also includes end strengths of 351,300 for the Army National Guard and 106,700 for the Air National Guard.

The Army National Guard end strength from 350,000, while the Air Guard level is essentially unchanged. The secretary of defense can authorize the Guard to exceed end strength by up to 3 percent.

Fort Dix STAR Program Suspected Terrorist Activity Reporting (STAR)

Countering terrorism requires the help of everyone in the community. Only you know who or what belongs -- or doesn't belong in your building, neighborhood, or work area. The simple act of recognizing suspicious behavior and reporting it to the authorities could prevent terrorist acts and save lives. Become a STAR -- please help Fort Dix by being alert and reporting any of the following:

Surveillance: Someone recording or monitoring activities using cameras, note taking, drawing diagrams, creating maps, using binoculars or other vision-enhancing devices. An element of this activity could also include mapping out routes and determining the timing of traffic lights and flow.

Security: Any attempt to measure reaction times and action by security forces. A test of security can be disguised as a simple mistake such as a vehicle approaching a security barrier and then turning around or an attempt to circumvent access control procedures to assess strengths and weaknesses of the security forces and equipment.

Acquiring Supplies: Purchasing or stealing police and military uniforms, emergency responder type vehicles (such as police cars and ambulances), installation access passes and other government identification or the equipment to manufacture them.

Dry Run or Practice: People or vehicles appear to have been purposely placed in a particular position or area. This is especially true when planning a kidnapping, but also pertains to bombings.

Actual Deployment of People and Assets: People and supplies getting into position to conduct an attack. This is the last chance to alert authorities before an attack occurs.

Suspicious Persons Out of Place: People who don't seem to belong or fit in the surrounding environment, especially if involved in any of the above listed activities.

Report any of the above to:
Fort Dix Police (609)562-6001 / 6002
Fort Dix Antiterrorism Officer (609) 562-2153 / 2417



Spec. Chad Hutchinson, 278th Military Police Company, Georgia National Guard, below, takes aim during Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training at Fort Dix.



Training at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site often involves dealing with Civilians on the Battlefield, or COBs, right.

Georgia troops bring southern style to training

Soldiers from the 278th Military Police Company, Georgia National Guard, below, tackle training at the Fort Dix Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site, commonly known as Balad. The 278th is undergoing mobilization training in preparation for a mission in support of the Global War on Terrorism.



Sgt. Leslie Blusini and Spec. Uriah Boyer, 278th Military Police Company, from left above, assess the situation during mobilization training.



photos by Ryan Morton

Army responds to rising suicide rates among Soldiers

Elizabeth M. Lorge
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31, 2008 - The Army is taking steps to meet the rising suicide rates among Soldiers head-on, the service's top mental-health expert told reporters at the Pentagon today.

With 102 confirmed suicides among active-duty and activated reserve-component Soldiers, 2006 had the highest number of cases since 1990. To date, 89 suicide deaths were confirmed in 2007 and 32 cases are still pending.

Suicide attempts have also climbed exponentially since the Army began tracking them in 2002, rising from 350 to approximately 2,100 last year, although some non-suicidal self-injuries and a new electronic medical records system may account for part of the increase, said Col. Elspeth C. Richie, psychiatry consultant to the Army's surgeon general.

"The loss of any Soldier is a tragedy and while we're talking about suicides in this case, Army leadership takes the loss of any Soldier seriously," said retired Col. Dennis W. Dingle, head of the Army well-being branch at the Office of Deputy Chief of Staff for G-1 (Personnel). "The Army is committed to applying the resources and developing the policies and adapting our programs and policies to support Soldiers, Civilians and their Families."

"We have targeted our efforts for suicide-prevention awareness, specifically to Soldiers and leaders as part of our professional military education system. It's become institution-

alized during the deployment process. But it goes beyond that. It's an integrated effort across the entire Army."

The majority of 2006 suicides took place among Soldiers in the United States. Seventy-two had either never deployed or been back from theater for over a year, eight had been back from deployment for less than a year, 27 occurred in Iraq and three in Afghanistan.

The vast majority, Richie said, occur among young, enlisted males aged 18-24, but there has been a rising number

The Army is closely watching for any correlation between the length and number of deployments and the number of suicides, but the most common cause of suicide is strained relationships.

among older Soldiers, and in 2006 the Army saw the highest number ever among females: 11. Most, 71 percent, involved firearms.

According to Richie, the Army is closely watching for any correlation between the length and number of deployments and the number of suicides, but the most common cause of suicide is strained relationships. While repeated deployments and post-traumatic stress disorder certainly add stress to relationships, she said, it's unusual for them to be the direct cause of a suicide.

Lt. Col. Ran Dolinger, a chaplain at G-1, said that while he was deployed one of his

Soldiers attended suicide-prevention training and seemed fine, but within an hour had received a call from his wife and killed himself. He stressed the importance of programs like Strong Bonds in building and maintaining healthy, strong marriages.

As part of the Army Family Covenant, the Army is spending \$1.4 billion this year on quality-of-life programs, including healthcare, for Soldiers and Families. These programs are crucial, said Dolinger and Dingle, because as the Army makes life better for Soldiers, they will be far less likely to kill themselves.

Richie visited Iraq in October, where she led a team assessing the mental healthcare available to Soldiers, and found that access to mental-healthcare providers and chaplains was good. The Army has more than 200 behavioral-health professionals in Iraq and has just added more than 100 in the United States.

After conducting interviews and focus groups with experts and Soldiers of all ranks, the team developed 55 recommendations to improve suicide-prevention training and care.

The team found that previous training attempts, which focused on stateside, garrison environments, were not effective in theater. Soldiers want to know how to recognize problems and what to do to help buddies. Senior leaders are generally supportive and encouraging when Soldiers need help, the team found, but Soldiers are themselves reluctant to face condemnation from their peers.

This stigma, Richie said, is

both the most difficult and the most important obstacle to overcome when it comes to getting Soldiers help.

The Army hopes the battle buddy system will help. Based on a decades-old tactic and the Warrior Ethos' statement "I will never leave a fallen comrade," it shows Soldiers that someone will always look out for them and that it's okay to ask for help.

All Soldiers receive an ACE of hearts playing card to carry with them. A reminder to Sol-

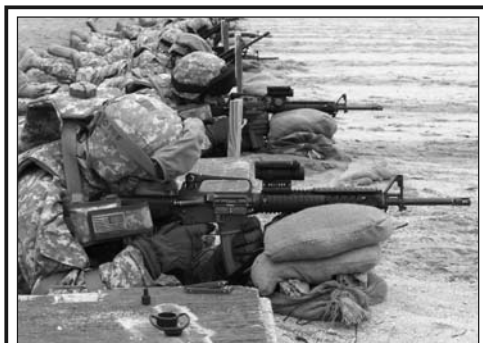
diers to care enough and have the courage to find out what's going on, and to never leave Soldiers who might harm themselves alone, even to get help. ACE stands for: Ask your buddy. Care for your buddy. Escort your buddy.

Battlemind training, which is required both before and after deployment, also reminds Soldiers who may be having a hard time that they are not alone. It tells leaders, Soldiers, Family members and even Army Civilians how to recog-

nize Soldiers in distress and how to get them help.

"We've got the multiple portals to care through chaplains, through primary care, through behavioral health, through leadership. We also need to make sure that Family members know who to call if they're worried about their Soldier. We need to involve the whole Family and the whole community in this effort," said Richie.

For more information, visit www.behavioralhealth.army.mil or www.battlemind.org.



Ryan Morton

Aiming for perfection

Sgt. Joseph Marks, 744th Military Police Battalion, takes his best shot along with his fellow Soldiers during rifle training on the Fort Dix ranges. The 744th, an Army Reserve unit out of Bethlehem, Pa., is on Fort Dix undergoing mobilization training in preparation for a deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

WEIGHT-BORRHOOD

THE CORNER

Army Community Service to host Resume Workshop

Army Community Service, in partnership with the Burlington County College Job Placement Office, will host a free Resume Workshop Feb. 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 5201 Maryland Avenue.

Register by calling Rod Martell at 562-2186 or e-mailing rod.martell@us.army.mil. Seating is limited to 20 people.

Thrift Shop holding winter sale now

The Fort Dix Thrift Shop will have a \$2 bag sale for all expired TSP and P06501 clothing and a \$1 per item sale on selected children's clothing through Feb. 16.

Spring clothing consignments began Feb. 5. Any items in exceptionally good or new condition will sell quickly in the store.

Hours of operation are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Feb. 6 from 4 to 8 p.m.; Feb. 2 and 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Consignments are accepted from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

If you have questions, see Jeanne at the donation desk in the back of the store anytime after 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

Chapel staff to host Valentine Dinner Dance

The chapel staff will hold the Fort Dix Chapel Annual Valentine Dinner Dance Feb. 13 at Club Dix. The evening event is open to everyone and will consist of dinner, plenty of dancing and lots of romantic music to help accentuate the mood. Previous Valentine Dinner Dances have been huge successes, so don't miss the opportunity to share an evening of passion with your special someone. Tickets are \$10 and are available from the Protestant or Gospel leaders and the Chapel administration office, or call 562-2020.

Art Therapy sessions help kids deal with separation

Army Community Service Hearts Apart support group is sponsoring Art Therapy sessions for children who are experiencing any type of separation due to deployment, remote assignments, divorce, etc.

Art Therapy provides children an opportunity to use art, their first language, when words are not enough. Art therapy allows children to express their concerns and feelings more genuinely and spontaneously.

Sessions will be offered once a week for six consecutive weeks every Wednesday starting Feb. 27. Children ages four to eight will attend sessions from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and children nine to 13 will attend sessions from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

For more information and registration, call Army Community Service at 562-2767.

Reserve Officers Association offers college scholarships

The Reserve Officers Association (ROA) offers \$500 merit-based scholarships for both undergraduate and postgraduate study at accredited colleges and universities. Undergraduate scholarships are available for children and grandchildren of ROA members; and graduate scholarships are available to ROA members.

Sponsors must be ROA members and membership is available to any active, reserve, retired, or former officer who served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or NOAA.

Application deadline for the 2008-09 School Year is April 10. ROA membership & scholarship applications are available at www.ROA.org. E-mail questions to grallen@comcast.net.

Training brigade looking for experienced Soldiers

The 72nd Field Artillery Brigade is looking for experienced Soldiers to become trainers for service members mobilizing through Fort Dix.

For more information on necessary qualifications, call Recruiting and Retention at 562-3309 or e-mail DIVEAST72FABDEREUP@usarmy.mil.

Black History events continue

If you are interested in participating in the Black History Month Trivia Contest for a chance to win two tickets to the Black History Luncheon, call Evelyn Dingle or Natasha Bryant at 562-2767 to register. There will be four questions e-mailed daily at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. from Feb. 11-15. Each question is worth two points to the person with the fastest response. All other correct responses within 15 minutes of the winning response will be awarded one-half point.

Other events for the week are:

●African Printmaking Class for children ages 6-12 at the Fort Dix Arts and Crafts Center, Feb. 9 and 23 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. This is a two-session class that explores the art of linoleum block printmaking with traditional African images. Students must attend both sessions. Cost is \$10, and pre-registration is required in person or by phone with a credit card. For more information, call 562-5691.

●The Willingboro Public Library and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority will celebrate Black History Month Feb. 9 from 2:30 to 5 p.m. with featured speaker Kevin Melton and a performance of "The Road to Freedom" by Key Arts Productions. For more information, call 877-6668, or visit www.willingboro.org

●Local minister and author Margaret Morris will be speaking Feb. 9 at 2 p.m. on changes in the community at the Riverton Free Library. Registration is not required. Call (856) 829-2476 or visit www.bcls.lib.nj.us for more information.

●In honor of Black History Month, the art of printmaker Wendell Brooks is on display throughout the month of February at the Fort Dix Arts and Crafts Center, Bldg. 6039. For more information, call 562-5691.

●The Pemberton Health Fair will be held Feb. 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Burlington County College, 601 Pemberton-Browns Mills Road. Representatives from various health care agencies and social service agencies will be on-hand in the Parker Center Student Lounge to provide information and referrals. For more information, call 894-9311 or (856) 222-9311, ext. 1334.

●The New Jersey National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters, Bldg. 3650 Saylor's Pond Road, will be sponsoring seminars each Wednesday during February. Guy Vanterpool, veterans' benefits, and Olga LaSalle, insurance and banking benefits, will be the guest speakers Feb. 13. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Mercedes Rowe at 562-0756.

●Burlington County Library, 5 Pioneer Boulevard, Westampton, will host a Hip Hop Dance Performance Feb. 15 from 7-8 p.m. presented by Fae da Phlave. Fae da Phlave is an innovative and dynamic fusion of the best hip hop dancers from Philadelphia and South Jersey. The company's work is an eclectic and electric breaking, locking, popping, hip hop and house dance. Registration is not required. The event is free. For more information, call 267-9660, ext. 3072.

Special events commemorating Black History Month are scheduled throughout February on Fort Dix, McGuire Air Force Base and surrounding communities.



Steve Snyder

MONTH OF MEANING—Howie Mack, author of "Why Am I Black," speaks during the African American Read-In at the Main Chapel Feb. 4. This was one of many events scheduled to commemorate Black History Month.

Jury duty scams phone call away

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

The phone rings, you pick it up, and the caller identifies himself as an officer of the court. He says you failed to report for jury duty and that a warrant is out for your arrest. You say you never received a notice. To clear it up, the caller says he'll need some information for "verification purposes"—your birth date, social security number, maybe even a credit card number.

This is when you should hang up the phone. It's a scam.

Jury scams have been around for years, but have seen a resurgence in recent months.

Communities in more than a dozen states have issued public warnings about cold calls from people claiming to be court officials seeking personal information. As a rule, court officers never ask for confidential information over the phone; they generally correspond with prospective jurors via mail.

The scam's bold simplicity may be what makes it so effective. Facing the unexpected threat of arrest, victims are caught off guard and may be quick to part with some information to defuse the situation.

"They get you scared first," says a special agent in the Minneapolis field office who has heard the complaints.

"They get people saying, 'Oh my gosh! I'm not a criminal. What's going on?'" That's when the scammer dangles a solution—a fine, payable by

credit card, that will clear up the problem.

With enough information, scammers can assume your identity and empty your bank accounts.

"It seems like a very simple scam," the agent adds. The trick is putting people on the defensive, then reeling them back in with the promise of a clean slate. "It's kind of ingenious. It's social engineering."

In recent months, communities in New York and other states reported scams or posted warnings or press releases on their local Web sites. In August, the federal court system issued a warning on the scam and urged people to call their local District Court office if they receive suspicious calls. In September, the FBI issued a press release about jury scams and suggested

Scammers might tap your information to make a purchase on your credit card, but could just as easily sell your information to the highest bidder on the Internet's black market.

victims also contact their local FBI field office.

In March, USA.gov, the federal government's information Web site, posted details about jury scams in their Frequently Asked Questions. The site reported scores of queries on the subject from Web site visitors and callers seeking information.

The jury scam is a simple variation of the identity-theft plays that have proliferated in recent years as personal information and good credit have become victims' preferred prey, particularly on the Internet.

Protecting yourself is the key: Never give out personal information when you receive an unsolicited phone call.



Jennifer M. McCarthy

Top shelf

Gabriel Lopez puts a book marker in place to mark the spot of a removed book at the grand opening of the re-done School Age Services library Jan. 25. Five students took two months to re-do the library. They straightened shelves, organized books and videos, and devised a plan to check out materials.

Fort Dix Spouses' Club offers scholarships and community grants

The Fort Dix Spouses' Club annual grant program is open to any military community organization in need of assistance. If you wish to apply for financial assistance, please submit a written request containing the amount requested and detailed information on how the grant will be used. For questions regarding the grant program, e-mail Joyce at kuwaejoy@yahoo.com or call 353-1192.

Applications are also being accepted for the 2007-2008 Scholarship Program. The program is open to family members of military or civilian personnel assigned, attached to or living on Fort Dix. Categories include: Graduating High School Senior to attend a College or University, Helen G. Reddy and Military Spouse, Civilian Spouse or Civilian Employee.

All applicants must meet eligibility requirements listed in the application. Applications are available at the Fort Dix Thrift Shop, Fort Dix Education Center, Army Community Service and area high school guidance offices. For additional information or to request an application, e-mail fortdixspousesclub@comcast.net or call Susan at 723-2784.

Mail all grant requests and completed scholarship applications to the Fort Dix Spouses' Club, PO Box 74, Fort Dix, New Jersey, 08640. All grant requests and completed scholarship applications must be received on or before April 1. The programs are funded with revenues generated by the Spouses' Club through the Fort Dix Thrift Shop. Awards will be announced at a luncheon in May.

Hours of operation at the Thrift Shop are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Feb. 6 from 4

to 8 p.m.; Feb. 2 and 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Consignments are accepted from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

If you have questions, see Jeanne at the donation desk in the back of the store after 4 p.m. on Wednesdays.



Wayne Cook

Decades of dedication

Jay Schopp, director of Human Resources, left, poses with 40-year service certificate recipients Sharon Valdes, Beverly Sills, Thomas Konevski, and Diane Robinson, from left, during a recognition ceremony in the Directorate of Human Resources conference room Feb. 5. The four employees have amassed more than 170 years of service to the post.



Here's a story, son

Pascual Flores
Video camera record Sgt. Erik Dolph, 396th Military Police Detachment from Colorado, as he reads from a book that will be sent to his son Kaden, who will celebrate his sixth birthday this coming March. The program is sponsored by the USO and was conducted during SuperBowl XLII at the Forward Operating Base.

DoD stocks shelves with newest Smallpox Vaccine

Fred W. Baker III
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5, 2008 — The Defense Department has begun its transition to the next generation of smallpox vaccine.

The new ACAM2000 vaccine first hit the shelves at the Pentagon's DiLorenzo Clinic last week from the Centers for Disease Control Strategic National Stockpile. Since the disease's eradication in December 1979, many manufacturers have quit producing smallpox vaccine, Army Col. Randall Anderson, director of DoD's Military Vaccine Agency, said. But the military needs smallpox vaccine to inoculate troops against biological weapons that may contain the virus. No cure exists for the disease.

Wyeth, a global provider of pharmaceuticals and current manufacturer of Dryvax, is withdrawing its product license for the vaccine the department now uses. The ACAM2000 vaccine, made by Acambis, is derived from the same smallpox strain as Dryvax, but it is produced using modern cell-culture technology. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration licensed it in August.

Acambis will provide a long-term, stable supply of the vaccine manufactured within the United States, Anderson said. The Defense Department gets the vaccine from CDC stockpiles in an interagency agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services. Anderson pointed out that the change will be transparent to those receiving the vaccination.

Air Force seeking special compensation claimants

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN), Feb. 5, 2008 — The approval rate of claims for Combat-Related Special Compensation is currently running 66 percent, but one-third of the eligible retirees still have not applied for the program.

Air Force Personnel Center officials expected an increase in claims when the benefit was expanded to include all combat

in 2003; however, this is just a drop in the bucket compared to the number of retirees still possibly eligible, Mr. Castro said. Data shows there are more than 200,000 members receiving Air Force retired pay who also receive 10 percent or greater VA disability compensation today. Even subtracting the 50,000 already under Concurrent Retirement Disability Payments (often called "Concur-

already have a claim and documentation, and can reassess a claim based on the new eligibility factors."

In determining eligibility, retired members should answer the following questions:

●Am I retired with 20 (or more) years of active duty, or retired at age 60 from the Guard or Reserve?

●Am I receiving retired pay?

The Air Force has processed about 34,000 Air Force claims since the program's inception in 2003; however, this is just a drop in the bucket compared to the number of retirees still possibly eligible.

or combat-related disabilities rated as service-connected by the Department of Veterans Affairs at 10 percent or higher, but that increase has just not happened.

"When in doubt - apply," said Mr. Rick Castro, Air Force CRSC program manager. "It may be the key to receiving additional tax-free money to which you're entitled. I encourage all who meet the basic eligibility criteria to apply and let our experienced staff make the decision."

The Air Force has processed about 34,000 Air Force claims since the program's inception

rent Receipt"), there are still 120,000 retirees who have not applied for CRSC.

Mr. Castro believes the lack of participation could be attributed to two causes; many retired Airmen may not have heard about the program, or perhaps people are confusing the CRSC criteria with that of Concurrent Receipt.

"That said, let our experts make the call," Mr. Castro explained. "That way if you do not qualify and something in the law or Department of Defense CRSC policy changes in the future that could affect the prior decision, we will

●Do I have a compensable VA disability of 10 percent or higher?

●Is my pay offset by VA disability payments (VA waiver)?

"If you answered 'yes' to those questions and have not submitted your CRSC claim, you must not need the money," Mr. Castro said. "However, the money is tax-free and could go a long way in funding the education of children, grandchildren, or any number of quality-of-life improvements."

Although CRSC specifically addresses "combat-related" disabilities incurred from

armed conflict, retirees who developed disabilities from other than combat may also be eligible. Disabilities caused by exposure to Agent Orange, combat training, aircrew duties, simulated war exercises, parachuting and munitions demolition potentially qualify for compensation under this program. But slipping and falling in an exercise or even during combat -- if not caused by something related to combat, combat training, or an instrumentality of war -- normally does not qualify for CRSC.

The CRSC team needs a copy of all copies of a retiree's Department of Defense Form 214 or retirement order, copies of any VA rating decisions addressing the disabilities being claimed, and any other available documentation. Retired members who do not have their rating decisions should let the team know; it will work to get the rating decisions from the VA.

Information and claim forms are available on the AFPC "Ask" Web site <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil>; search for "CRSC". You can also get more information through the 24-hour Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.

Navy provides classes for Sailor's professional studies

MCS David Danals
Fleet PA Center, Atlantic

NORFOLK, VA., Feb. 4, 2008 — Center for Personal and Professional Development (CPPD) and Training Support Command (TSC) are teaming up to offer ongoing classes through which Sailors can improve their skills while becoming greater assets to their commands.

The courses help Sailors from all paygrades and ratings develop a variety of skills needed in the fleet.

"We take our first term Sailors, E-5 and below, who are not performing to the highest standards and take them through this two-week course to teach them some team building and trust building exercises," said Lt. Cmdr. Leon Higgins, officer in charge at CPPD Detachment Norfolk. "It's been pretty successful;

we've had an 86 percent retention rate with Sailors that have gone through the program."

Some of the courses available include: Bearings class, drug and alcohol program advisor and command managed

career counselor course.

Navy leadership recognizes that equal opportunity is essential to every command, and the CMEC course supports that belief. The course focuses on techniques and guidelines that

Reynolds, CPPD and TSC school houses are teaming up to help Sailors all across the Navy.

"The most rewarding part is watching the students graduate and come up to me telling me they really enjoyed this class

"The Navy changes constantly and we get Sailors from all different aspects, and each one of our courses provide something different."

Cynthia L. Reynolds
Senior Chief Navy Counselor

equal opportunity (CMEC).

Bearings is a two-week course that focuses on building upon areas such as self awareness, professional relationships, strategies for success and personal values.

"The Navy changes constantly and we get Sailors from all different aspects, and each one of our courses provide something different," said Senior Chief Navy Counselor Cynthia L. Reynolds, director of

Sailors in leadership positions can use to ensure every Sailor is treated fairly.

"The CMEC course is where we teach more senior Sailors to go back [to their commands] and be the equal opportunity advisor and manage the opportunity program, and to be that independent person, not associated with any particular division, which the Sailors [can] come to for any problems they need [help with]," said

and that they really learned something here," said Aviation Support Equipment Technician 1st Class (SW/AW) Daniel Rivers, Equal Opportunity advisor.

For more information on the courses available visit www.ako.navy.mil under personal development.

For more news from Naval Education and Training command, visit <http://www.navy.mil>.



Training master

Sgt. 1st Class Barbara Bell, 2-312th TSB, was promoted to the rank of master sergeant, Jan. 8, by Sgt. Maj. Ronald Kling, 72nd Field Artillery Brigade (TS) and fellow Master Sgt. Kathy Taylor, also of the 2-312th TSB.

1st Lt. Antonia Greene
72nd Field Artillery Brigade

Command ready for Homeland Defense

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo., Army News Service, Nov. 4, 2008 — U.S. Northern Command's primary mission is Homeland Defense, and its commander said Friday that USNORTHCOM stands ready to respond to any homeland defense or civil-support mission requirement.

"The U.S. military absolutely has the capacity to respond to potential threats within our nation today. It will get better in this coming year and continue to improve beyond that," said Gen. Gene Renuart, USNORTHCOM commander. The Commission on the National Guard and Reserves issues a wide-ranging report to Congress and the Defense Department Thursday, stating that DoD should improve its capabilities and readiness so

the military can take a primary role in response to major catastrophes inside the United States.

USNORTHCOM was established in 2002 as a result of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and has dramatically expanded DoD's focus on all aspects of Homeland Defense, command officials said, including planning and exercising, as well as organizing new headquarters and units that are specifically tailored for domestic response.

USNORTHCOM has prepared detailed plans for responding to situations that range from pandemic influenza to Chemical, Biological, Radi-

ological and Nuclear events, and the command has redefined its readiness capabilities since Hurricane Katrina.

When it comes to providing forces in response to incidents, the command has nearly 50 National Guard officers fully integrated within its operations, in addition to National Guard Civil Support Teams located within every U.S. state and territory, and 17 regional consequence response units.

USNORTHCOM also uses an active-duty military response unit of nearly 450 Marines who are the "gold standard" for responding to weapons of mass said.

Army loses NCO, police gain instructor

Shawn Morris
Public Affairs Staff

Two things all Americans can be sure of are death and taxes, but those working at Fort Dix for the past two years have born witness to a third irresistible force: Master Sgt. Pentti Forsman.

Whether organizing yellow banner ceremonies, conducting water-survival training, booking Soldiers into Army schools, or just working out at the gym, Forsman has proved to be a jovial juggernaut.

In March, Forsman will end an Army career that began in 1985, and return to the New Jersey State Police in his new role as an instructor at the academy in Sea Girt.

"I enjoyed getting guys in school and setting up training events. I'm going from setting up training in the Army to setting up training in the State Police Academy," said Forsman, who spent the past two years as the Mobilization Readiness Battalion operations sergeant after being mobilized from the 1079th Garrison Support Unit.

"I'll miss wearing the uniform, the Army family, the camaraderie," Forsman said as he prepares to end a 22-and-a-half year military journey that began with a young recruit at Fort Sill, Okla., who served as a forward observer with the 3rd Infantry Division in Germany.

After four years active-duty service, Forsman moved into the reserve component. He was mobilized for the first time to Fort Dix in 1991 during Desert Storm.

"I helped train the Kuwaitis who were here," Forsman explained, adding that he also helped train Individual Ready Reserve and Initial Entry Training Soldiers on the Fort Dix ranges.

In 1994, he attended the

New Jersey State Police Academy, and has served as a state trooper ever since.

He now returns to the academy not as a pupil, but as a teacher.

"I'll be using my experiences in both careers, preparing guys for what they might encounter in their careers," Forsman explained.

"You have to have a life plan," continued Forsman, who is working on a master's degree in human resources training and development at Seton Hall University. "The military is a great career, but there is life after the military."

"A lot of guys don't take advantage of all the schools," he added. "Get an education; nobody can take that from you."

While Forsman had kind words for his Fort Dix co-workers, he reserved his highest praise for his wife Kimberly and their three-year-old daughter, Victoria.

"I want to thank my wife for her support during these years of mobilization," he said. She picked up a lot of slack on the homefront."



Wayne Cook

COVETED CAREER — Master Sgt. Pentti Forsman, S3, Mobilization Readiness Battalion (MRB), above left, receives an Army Achievement Medal from Lt. Col. Joseph Chirico, commander, MRB, as he closes out his two-year mobilization at Fort Dix and 22-year career in the Army.



HUMBLE BEGINNINGS — Forsman's Army career began in September 1985 at Fort Sill, Okla. Forsman spent four years active duty as a forward observer with the 3rd Infantry Division in Germany, above and below right. Forsman will retire in March with 22-and-a-half years service.



GARDEN STATE'S FINEST — Forsman has been a New Jersey state trooper for the past 13 years, having graduated the academy at Sea Girt in 1994, above. After two years mobilized to Fort Dix, Forsman will return to the state police as an academy instructor.

Top chaplaincy NCO puts Soldier welfare first

Wayne Cook
Public Affairs Staff

The installation chapel staff and the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade chaplain staff played host to the senior non-commissioned officer from the Office of the Chief of Chaplains Jan. 31.

Sgt. Maj. Tommy Marrero, sergeant major of the Office of the Chief of Chaplains, paid a visit to Fort Dix to check up on the well-being and needs of the chaplains and their chaplain assistants. After receiving briefings from Col. Mike Miklos, commander, 72nd FA Bde., and Chap. (Col.) Larry Biederman, installation chaplain, Marrero spent the rest of the day visiting the post.

Meeting with the chaplain assistants, Marrero was adamant that they understand that he is mission-oriented and his goal is to make it as easy as possible for them to perform their duties.

"We are caregivers and our customers are Soldiers. I want to help you out. The chief of chaplains has told me he doesn't want me behind my desk at my computer all the time; he wants me out amongst the Soldiers and that is where I want to be," said Marrero.

In 2007, Marrero spent 208 days in the field, around the world, taking care of chaplains and chaplain assistants and ensuring they had what they needed to complete their missions.

"There is only one Army. I don't see only active, Reserve or Guard components. I only see Soldiers. This is what I expect of you when you are serving our fine Soldiers and their families," he said.

One display of his commitment to the chaplain assistants and their mission was evident when, during a briefing on manning status at the installation chapel, he was told there was difficulty in filling two slots on the manning document. His response was that there should

be no show-stoppers in filling manning requirements at continental U.S. locations because there are excellent country-loving Soldiers who want to serve. He stated that he would be back at the Pentagon the following day and he would help address any problems that were brought to him.

During his tour of the installation, Marrero visited the Joint Readiness Center where he was impressed with the system that was set up to help take care of deploying and returning Soldiers.

His next stop was at the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, where he met with the Air Force chaplain, Maj. Thom Porter, and his chaplain assistants. Tech Sgt. Philip Griffin, chaplain assistant instructor, briefed the sergeant major on training provided to Air Force chaplain assistants and chaplains at Fort Dix. He also shared how the Air Force chaplain's office interacted with the 72nd FA Bde. chaplain staff to provide pertinent and effective training to Air Force personnel.

Marrero shared that chaplains and chaplain assistants from all branches should be performing their duties to the same standards because when they are overseas there is always a chance that they could find themselves assigned to minister to members of a different branch than their own.

They also addressed taking care of each other while serving overseas.

"When we are overseas, we need to be prepared to care for the caregivers who are ministering in traumatic situations such as hospital care. They are often in situations where they have to be with a member of the military who has experienced a catastrophic or life-threatening injury. We need to care for each other by allowing each other to talk about what they have seen and been through," said Marrero.

After visiting with the Air Force, Marrero was taken to see the forward operating base and the different ministering opportunities that are



Wayne Cook

Sgt. Maj. Peter Christiansen, Forward Operating Base sergeant major, left, briefs Sgt. Maj. Tommy Marrero, Office of the Chief of Chaplains, center, and Master Sgt. Alden Wooten, 1st Army Division East command chaplain NCOIC, right, on the capabilities to provide training to Soldiers at the FOB during a visit to the installation Jan. 31.

available in the field.

In the end, Marrero wrapped it up in one package and laid it out for all to hear.

"It doesn't matter whether you wear the

tablets or the cross or whatever on your uniform; it's not about that, but we are here to meet the needs of the Soldiers and their families and help them to grow spiritually," he said.

Bush gives Congress defense budget

(continued from page 1)

The budget request asks for \$15.5 billion for the Army increase and \$5 billion for the Marines in fiscal 2009. If approved, the increase will boost the Army to 532,400 during fiscal 2009 and the number of brigade combat teams from 40 to 42. The Army's goal is a force of 547,400 with 48 brigade combat teams in 2012.

In fiscal 2009, the Marine Corps will boost its end-strength by 5,000 to 194,000. The goal is 202,000 in 2011.

The increase will help both services handle the operations tempo required to fight the global war on terrorism, and could potentially mean more time at home for servicemembers. Currently, soldiers deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan for 15-month tours and are at home stations for a year; the Marines are deployed for seven months and home for seven months.

Once the growth is finished, soldiers will spend a year deployed and two years at home station, and the Marines will deploy for seven months and be home for 14 months.

Air Force end-strength will be set at 316,600, and Navy end-strength will be 325,300. Force readiness will experience a 10.4 percent jump in funding over 2008 if the budget is approved. The budget request is \$158.3 billion, an increase of \$14.9 billion. Tank miles, ship steaming days and flying hours will remain constant, officials said.

The request also includes \$33.1 billion for logistical, intelligence and service-wide support activities. Equipment maintenance is set at \$11.8 billion, while base operations and facilities maintenance are pegged at \$32.6 billion for more than 5,300 sites worldwide. Training is set for \$7.4

billion, and recruiting is at \$3.3 billion for fiscal 2009.

Strategic modernization is set at \$183.8 billion in fiscal 2009, up \$10.5 billion from fiscal 2008. The category includes procurement and research and development. Joint air capabilities account for about half of the procurement, and includes 16 F-35 Joint Strike Fighters, 20 F-22A Raptors, 36 V-22 Ospreys, 23 F/A-18 Hornets, 16 CH-47

Chinook helicopters and \$1.4 billion for the Air Force's KC-X tanker aircraft program.

On the Navy side, the budget includes money for building the CVN-21 aircraft carrier, a Virginia-class submarine, two littoral combat ships and a DDG-1000 destroyer.

Army buys include 119 Stryker vehicles, 5,249 Humvees, 29 M-1A1 tank upgrades, 1,061 heavy tactical vehicles and 3,187 medium

tactical vehicles. Spec-based capabilities include more launch vehicles, two space-based infrared systems and advanced, extremely high-frequency satellite and ballistic missile defense.

Officials said the department will work with Congress to ensure four specific initiatives mentioned in the president's State of the Union address become realities. The first is to put legislation in

place so servicemembers can transfer unused education benefits to spouses or children. The second is to expand and strengthen career opportunities for military spouses. Third is to develop a public-private partnership to increase child-care centers in communities surrounding military bases. The last is to implement the Dole-Shalala Report recommendations for treatment of wounded warriors and their families.

Announcements

Cinema Schedule

754-5139
McGuire Air Force Base

Friday, Feb. 8 @ 7:30 p.m.

One Missed Call- Shannyn Sossamon, Edward Burns, Ana Claudia Talancón, Ray Wise, Azura Sley - When Beth Raymond witnesses the deaths of two friends, she knows there is more at work than just a tragic coincidence; days before they died, both victims hear their terrifying final moments on cell phones. Though police think Beth is crazy, detective Jack Andrews believes her. Together the pair try to unravel the mystery behind the horrifying messages before their own phone numbers come up.

MPAA Rating: PG-13 - Intense sequences of violence and terror, frightening images, some sexual material and thematic elements
Run time: 87 minutes

Saturday, Feb. 9 @ 7:30 p.m.

The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep - Emily Watson, Alex Etel, Ben Chaplin, David Morrissey, Priyanka K - When Angus, a young Scottish boy, finds an enchanted egg, he takes it home and soon finds himself face-to-face with an amazing creature: the mythical water horse of Scottish lore. Angus begins a journey of discovery, facing his greatest fears and risking his life to protect a secret that would give birth to a legend.

MPAA Rating: PG - mild action/violence, some language and smoking
Run time: 112 minutes

Future Features...

The Great Debaters

Friday, Feb. 15 @ 7:30 p.m.
PG-13, 124 minutes.

The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A Veggie Tales Movie

Saturday, Feb. 16 @ 7:30 p.m.
G, 85 minutes.

Chapel Services

562-2020

Sunday Services

Protestant.....9-10 a.m.
Catholic Mass.....10:15-11:15 a.m.
Gospel.....11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Camp Victory - Chaplain's tent

Hour of Power
Protestant.....8-9 a.m.
Catholic.....8-9 a.m.
Mormon.....8-9 a.m.
Jewish.....8-9 a.m.

Wednesday Services

Main Chapel

Protestant 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Religious Services

Islamic Prayer room
open 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday - Room 24
Catholic Adult Bible Study
Sundays, 11:30 a.m.
Christian Women of the Chapel - Bible Study - Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon
Christian Men of the Chapel - Prayer Breakfast - Fourth Saturday of each month, 9 to 11 a.m.
Youth of the Chapel
Every second and fourth Tuesday 7 to 9 p.m.
Jewish services available by request

Special Events

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday, February 8 - March 14, 6 p.m.

Valentine Dinner Dance
Wednesday, February 13, 6 p.m.

--Coming in March--
Installation Prayer Breakfast
Wednesday, March 12, 7:30 a.m.
at Club Dix

For additional services or Religious Support please call 562-2020

Religious materials are available at the JRC, the Main Chapel, and Camp Victory

MWR presents

Tea for Three

A one woman show that reveals intimate portraits about three remarkable First Ladies: Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon, and Betty Ford. We will discover what each of them thought about "the hardest unpaid job in the world." Performed by Emmy Award-winning, New York actress for 30 years in film, television, Broadway and Off Broadway - Elaine Brorika.
\$10 admission includes your choice of teas, coffees and desserts. Don't miss this thought-provoking perspective on the politics of love, devotion, and duty.

Feb. 15 at Club Dix
Tickets go on sale Feb. 1

Little League Baseball registration begins Feb. 18, for 3 to 15 year olds. Call 562-2819 for details.

Veterinary Clinic

The Fort Dix/McGuire Veterinary Treatment Facility has February appointments available Feb. 5-7, 12, 20 and 25. Your animal must be registered prior to being scheduled for an appointment.

Clinic hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Call Dawn at 562-6636 with any questions.

ACS Meetings

Tuesday, Feb. 12
Hearts Apart
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
ACS Bldg. 5201

Wednesday, Feb. 13
Personal Financial Readiness
5 - 6 p.m.
ACS Bldg. 5201

Friday, Feb. 22
Newcomers Orientation
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
ACS Bldg. 5201

Youth Center

562-5061
Bldg. 1279 Locust Street

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday - Friday from 2-7 p.m.
Saturday from 1-7 p.m.
Sunday & Monday CLOSED

Administrative Hours:

Tuesday - Friday from noon-6 p.m.

Weekly Schedule

Friday, Feb. 8
EARLY DISMISSAL
Photo Club
3:45 - 4:45 p.m.
Power Hour Store
2:30 - 4 p.m.
Computer Lab
4 - 6 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 9
Annual Keystone
Valentine Dance
7 - 10 p.m.
Teen Center Closed

Monday, Feb. 11
Power Hour
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Computer Lab
4 - 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 12
Power Hour
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Computer Lab
4 - 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 13
Sports & Fitness
3:45 - 4:45 p.m.
Power Hour
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Computer Lab
4 - 6 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 14
Power Hour
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Computer Lab
4 - 6 p.m.
Torch Club
3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Dining Facilities

Bldg. 5610 Open Every Day
Breakfast 6-7:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30-1 p.m.
Dinner 4:30-6 p.m.

Bldg. 5986 Open Every Day
Breakfast 6-7:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30-1 p.m.
Dinner 4:30-6 p.m.

Meal Rates: Breakfast - \$2.10
Lunch - \$3.85 Dinner - \$3.85

PT uniforms are not to be worn when eating at Fort Dix dining facilities

Helpful Hotlines

Family Advocacy
562-5200
Chaplain
562-2020
American Red Cross
562-2258
Army Emergency Relief
562-2767
Sexual Assault
562-3849
Victim Advocacy
694-8724
Child/Spouse Abuse
562-6001
Emergencies
911
Providence House hotline
871-7551
NJ Domestic Violence hotline
800 572-SAFE
Fort Dix Victim Advocate
562-2767
McGuire Victim Advocate
754-9672

Arts and Crafts

562-5691

Bldg. 6039 Philadelphia Street

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday from 9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Wednesday to Thursday from noon - 5 p.m. and 6 - 8:45 p.m.
Friday from 11 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Saturday from 9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Programs

Adult Craft Classes

Thursdays, 6-8:30 p.m.

Feb. 13.....An Evening of Scrap-Booking
Feb. 14 & 21.....Hand-Painted Keepsake Boxes (2 session class) - \$10

Kids Craft Classes

Saturdays, 2:30 - 4 p.m.

Feb. 9 & 23.....African Printmaking Class (2 session class) - \$10

\$5 pre-registration fee

for other classes call Arts & Crafts

562-5691

Krafty Birthdays

Arts & Crafts offers Krafty Birthday Parties! Parties include up to 2 hours of party room use, one craft project with instruction and all materials, with many exciting projects to choose from. When making party reservations, please make sure to stop by in order to select the craft and make payment.

Create A Critter

Discover a menagerie of adorable animals to stuff, dress, and cuddle. From the basic teddy bear to giraffes and lions, we've got them all! Great fun for the whole family and you'll love our low prices. It makes a great last-minute gift idea, too.

Hearts For Heroes

Show your appreciation for our active duty and retired military. Come in anytime and paint a small heart which will be given to a military member. All hearts will be donated so there is no cost to participate!

Framing Qualification Classes

Feb. 9 and 20.

Mar. 1, 5 and 19

Get qualified to use this great facility and equipment! You will complete one piece (cost of which is not covered by registration fee) about 8"x10" which you must supply as you learn to operate the equipment. All materials are available for purchase at the frame shop.
\$10 fee plus materials

Frame Shop

Stop by to learn about all kinds of framing techniques. In no time you'll be framing your own photographs, paintings and posters.

Read The Post!

United Communities Housing Information

Leasing Office - 723-4290
Maintenance Office - 724-0500
Maintenance Scheduling, Progress, and Trash Concerns - 724-0550

United Communities is now offering Self-Help Delivery!

Please check the United Communities Web site for details:
www.mcguiredixuc.com

Fort Dix/McGuire Residential Refuse Collection Schedule

MONDAY

McGuire AFB
3800's & 3900's

TUESDAY

ALL OF FORT DIX INCLUDING QUARTERS: 201, 502, 1900

THURSDAY

McGuire AFB
4000's EXCEPT 4013-4027
4200's EXCEPT 4252-4260

FRIDAY

McGuire AFB
4013-4027
4252-4260
4300's, 4400's and 4500's

*** IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU ONLY PUT TRASH OUT ON YOUR SCHEDULED DAY. THIS HELPS KEEP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN***

RECYCLING IS PICKED UP EVERY THURSDAY

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ONLY RECYCLABLES ARE PUT IN YELLOW/BLUE RECYCLING BINS

GREEN WASTE IS PICKED UP EVERY MONDAY AND TUESDAY.

Wills make difficult time easier on family

Edited by Captain Nick Mitchell
Judge Advocate

The expression, "last will and testament" is historical and comes from the time when a distinction was drawn between a "testament" - a term derived from Latin, which disposed of personal property, and a "will" - a term derived from Anglo-Saxon, which disposed of real property.

The word "will" is the modern equivalent of both, although the heading of a will customarily employs the longer form.

Everyone owns something and, therefore, is an owner of property - real or personal - and has an estate. REAL PROPERTY is land and buildings. Everything else owned is called PERSONAL PROPERTY, such as bank accounts, stocks, bonds, furniture, automobiles, money, life insurance, jewelry, and personal effects.

It is the owner's privilege to select to whom his or her estate will go. You may choose one of several ways to dispose of your estate - by a will, by creating a trust or joint ownership, or by letting the law distribute your property.

Transfer of an estate to an individual's heirs after his death may be an orderly or thoroughly disorganized process. It depends on a four-letter word - WILL.

Every person, 18 years of age or over should make one. This important document is a legal declaration of the way an individual wants his property

distributed. Whether the estate is large or small, it is desirable to transfer what you own with a properly executed will - whether you are a man or woman, married or single.

Those without wills may leave their survivors in financial insecurity or downright frustration. It is to the advantage of both the individual and his family or his close friends that he or she executes a will.

Contrary to general opinion, frequently the smaller amounts

Whether the estate is large or small, it is desirable to transfer what you own with a properly executed will - whether you are a man or woman, married or single.

involved, the greater trouble when there is no will. Squabbles over a few thousand dollars can be more bitter than fights over many thousands.

Making a will in an important step in your financial management program. To save your heirs time and money, plan now for the orderly transfer of your property. In this way the cost of a bond and possible disagreement among those who are to receive your property may be avoided. You decide to whom, when, and in what amounts your assets should go. You select your executor or personal representative, the one who shall be responsible for the disposition of your estate. You may avoid the forced sale of your property, or costly and tedious applications to courts for the right to

sell it. You have greater assurance that your plans will be carried out as you desire.

One way to guarantee trouble to a family is not to make a will. Court records bulge with tragic tales of families torn apart and caused immeasurable pain and financial expense because the income producer did not do so.

Without a will your estate must be distributed according to the intestate laws, the provisions of which are general and inflexible. The law will say who shall administer your estate, among whom, and how it shall be divided. By losing the privilege of naming your executor or personal representative, you may make a costly mistake. Your property may not be distributed as you wish, and thus cause hardship for those you want to safeguard most.

Without a will you lose the privilege of naming a guardian for your minor children. This is vital, particularly if your spouse should not survive you. If you leave no immediate family, failure to leave a will may result in your property going to persons in whom you have no particular interest.

Wills are not do-it-yourself projects. Secure the services of an attorney. Although many prepared without legal aid have been successfully executed, the risk is too great. A minor detail may invalidate your good intentions.

(Information for this article was originally assembled by the Cumberland County Surrogate's Office, New Jersey. Look for Part II of this article in a future edition of "the Post")

Chaplains' Corner

1st Lt. Mitchell Rocklin
Chaplain candidate

How many of us have seen our favorite sports team lose a game on a controversial call by a referee or umpire? In the aftermath of such a game, debate inevitably ensues. Fans will protest, and detailed arguments will be constructed and dissected. Officials will be criticized or defended, and commentators will show replays of the controversial call over and over again.

While the official's call, and the results it created, will stand, the ruckus created by the event will reverberate for some time.

It would never occur to us to say something like: "Well, it's true that the play was close, but even though the player didn't quite score, he almost did, so let's just give him the points and give his team the win." Would a referee who was this casual about the game keep his job? What kind of sports fan would take the game so lightly?

Believe it or not, we make this mistake all the time. When it comes to the activities that we are most interested in, we give complete attention. Sometimes, however, we do not properly focus on the most important things in life. Instead, we act just like an uninterested sports fan, telling ourselves: "I put time aside for God and my fellow man, but I won't overdo it. It's alright that I'm not quite where I should be, that I'm almost doing what I'm supposed to be doing, so I won't worry."

Why not use sports to help us better understand the importance of leading our spiritual lives properly? Obviously we should care more about our life goals than we do about a

mere game. In the end, when we pass on to the next world, the close calls of sports are not going to matter for us. What will matter, however, are the close calls that we will have made in our own lives.

Did we help our neighbors when they needed a hand? Were we honest in business? Did we make an effort to build a family? Did we take time to study God's word? Did we love and fear God as we should have? These are questions that will be far more relevant when our time comes. We should make sure that we were more careful about them than we were about other, less important matters.

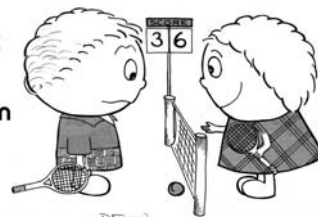
Chapter 28 of Deuteronomy presents us with God's desire that His people follow in his ways. One recurring theme of the chapter is that if people are not following God, they can instead be found following "other gods." While the plain meaning of the Bible seems to be pointing to pagan worship, some commentators took it to mean something deeper.

If we do not follow God's path, placing this job at the top of our list of priorities, we will necessarily turn our attention elsewhere, seeking other attractions to devote ourselves to. These may not be pagan gods, but irrelevant distractions that we will inflate into the central purpose of our lives. Different people have different vices when it comes to this problem, but it is a challenge that we all face.

One way to conquer this challenge is to imagine our own funeral and appearance before God in the next world. What would we like to be said of us? What do we hope we will be able to say in our defense? What kind of life will we want to look back on? The answer to this future question is the key to how we live our lives in the present.

Faith is...

Knowing we don't always have to win to be loved by God.



NCO Call
at Club Dix
Wednesday evenings
at 6 p.m.

WDIX Channel 2
24/7 information

Grapplers deal mayhem at Field House

Wayne Cook
Public Affairs Staff

Dropkicks and body slams aplenty were on the card Jan. 31 as World's Greatest Wrestling, a promotion of East Coast Professional Wrestling out of Lake Hiawatha, took over Griffith Field House for an evening of bone-crunching entertainment.

Since the 1880s fans have gathered to watch wrestlers compete in the squared circle and this past Thursday proved

to be no different. The difference between the events in the latter part of the 19th century and today is that professional wrestling has transformed from a legitimate sport of Greco-roman style mat wrestling to a simulated sport laced with the theatrical arts.

Nonetheless, more than 280 spirited fans sat ringside as wrestlers with colorful character names such as Donnie the Body and Dan de Man climbed into the ring and entertained the crowd with chops to the chest, high-flying body splash-

es, and arm bars. "I brought my dad, who loves this stuff. He's been watching wrestling for more than 50 years. It's a lot of fun but my dad is a pretty tough guy. I think he could take any one of them," said Harry Barstow of Browns Mills.

The members of the audience picked and cheered their favorites and jeered and shouted at the rest.

Bryan Bombay and C.K. Kross opened the evening's event with a display of high-flying dropkicks and clothes-

lines with the early advantage going to Kross. Not unheard of in the wrestling world, an outside distraction disrupted the match and, while the referee took notice of the impending event, Bombay took the opportunity to cheat and then finish off Kross for the one-two-three pin.

The inaugural match was followed by one that highlighted the skills of Jay Santana, who took on opponent Timothy Plasma in a fast-paced match of aerial athleticism and lightning-quick moves. In the end, Santana was able to finish off Plasma.

The crowd was treated to a heavyweight title match when the champ, Dan de Man, took on the challenge of a behemoth, Broelly. Thunderous blows and chops precipitated a back-and-forth match, which saw the advantage changing sides continuously. Tenacity and endurance appeared to be on the side of the champ as he weathered everything thrown at him and persevered to retain his title.

The next match pitted Donnie "the Body" Johnson against Jeff Coleman. The names of these two wrestlers seemed to be a bit misconstrued as Coleman was the one who looked rather like a Greek god with a body chiseled out of granite.

Power was the key to this match as the wrestlers battered each other with tremendous blows. Coleman overwhelmed "the Body" and grabbed the upper hand in the match until Bombay charged the ring and inserted himself into the fracas. Johnson and Bombay quickly grasped control of the contest as they pummeled Coleman mercilessly. Enter C.K. Kross, who rushed the ring to lend aid to Coleman. Another swing in momentum, and Bombay and Johnson started to beat a hasty retreat toward the dressing room. Coleman and Kross challenged Johnson and Bombay to get back in the ring as the audience chanted for the match to continue until the ringside announcer declared the match be restarted as a tag-team event pitting Coleman and Kross against Johnson and Bombay.

Using the combination of power and speed, Coleman and Kross overcame the dirty dealings of Johnson and Bombay. A spear and power bomb later, Coleman wrapped up Johnson for the win.

To the delight of the males in the audience, the card included a female wrestling match. As the crowd hooted and whistled, Alexa Thatcher faced off against Becky Bayless. Although the women lacked the power moves of the men, they exhibited speed and grappling prowess as they put on a display of moves such as hip tosses, tests of strength, and dropkicks. The crowd cheered on the beautiful gladiators until a high kick to the head of Bayless brought the bout to an end. In a show of good sportsmanship, Bayless



raised the hand of Thatcher in victory.

The highlight match of the evening was all that was left and it didn't disappoint the fans. The feature match-up had the very pro-American Patriot defending the honor of the nation against the Russian Assassin.

Accompanied to the ring by his guest valet, Spc. Joshua Barnhart of the 744th Military Police Battalion from Bethlehem, Pa., the Patriot garnered the adoration and support of nearly everyone in the building.

To the dismay of the Russian Assassin, the crowd cheered "U.S.A." for many minutes, which delayed the beginning of the match.

As the contest got underway, it became obvious that these were giants of men looking to pulverize each other. Huge chops to the chest left welts on both combatants while kicks to the head and heads being bounced of security barriers left them reeling.

The crowd interjected itself in the match as it spurred on the wrestlers to employ outside objects such as tables. Not being one to disappoint the audience, the Patriot grabbed the announcer's table and, standing it against a ring post, ran the Assassin headlong into it, smashing the table.

A little later in the match, the Assassin utilized the table in the center of the ring as he body slammed the Patriot onto it. Back and forth the match went as the crowd reached a fever pitch of "U.S.A!" and the Patriot landed a devastating blow that felled his opponent for good. As the referee

declared the Patriot the victor, Barnhart climbed into the ring and raised the Patriot's arm to the cheers of the masses.

After the event ended, many of the wrestlers waited around, visiting with the audience, signing autographs and taking pictures.

"I enjoy being able to do what I do for the audience, especially the military. In a few hours I will pack and get on an airplane and head down south for two more events this week," said Santana.

"It was really fun to be here," said Bayless. "It's great when you put on a show for people who really enjoy what you do. Wrestling is a great way to meet people, too."

"It's a great challenge, taking on new opponents each time and having fun with the crowd. It's a really awesome thing to be able to do what you like and have people enjoy it. Although it seems like it is easy sometimes, it takes a lot of hard work to get in shape, learn the wrestling moves and travel constantly to all the venues," said Thatcher.

It appeared that everyone in the audience had a good time, young and old, as the children ran all over getting autographs and wearing their wrestling masks.

"My grandkids enjoyed it. They had a really good time. I was a little disappointed the wrestlers who were advertised on the original card didn't show up, but my grandkids enjoyed getting all the autographs and wearing their masks. They run from six years old to 14 years old," said Ann Margaret Fort, directorate of resource management.



photos by Wayne Cook

MAT MANIA -- Fans were treated to a display of devastating chops and high-flying splashes as the World's Greatest Wrestling extravaganza turned the Griffith Field House into a den of mayhem and chaos Jan. 31. Above, the beloved Patriot reaches out to the crowd for energy as the Russian Assassin applies a headlock during the feature bout of the evening. Above right, The Patriot's special valet of the evening, Spc. Joshua Barnhart, 744th Military Police Battalion, raises his hand in victory after he pinned his Cold-War nemesis.



Pascual J. Flores

Super Bowl celebrated at FOB

Soldiers training at Fort Dix's Forward Operating Base got some time off to enjoy Super Bowl Sunday. Sgt. Joseph Agner, 320th Military Police Company, from St. Petersburg, Fla., fills out his pick for the Super Bowl XLII pool at the FOB. Agner favored the Patriots, who were upset by the Giants 17-14. This is the fourth year Soldiers at the FOB were treated to a Super Bowl Party.

All You can Bowl!!

Wednesdays 1700 - 2100

- ★ One Lane, Two Hours of Unlimited Bowling
- ★ Up to six people per lane
- ★ Shoe Rental is not Included

Only \$20.00 per lane!

Center Closes @ 2200

At Dix/McGuire Bowling Center
8054 Daughters Lane
Beverly Hills
805 963 8895

Sports Shorts

Griffith Field House

Saturday & Sunday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday - Friday
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Little League

The Fort Dix Little League Baseball Program will be holding registration Feb. 18 - March 28. The program is open to all family members of active duty, retired military, civilian or contract employees.

Cost to register is \$50 for children 3-15.

For more information, or to register, call CYS at 562-4702 or 562-5231. Chris and Steve at Youth Sports, 562-2819 can also provide additional information.

Bowling

The Fort Dix Bowling Center will remain open while new lanes are being installed.

Monday - Thursday
5 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Friday

5 p.m. - midnight

Saturday

10:30 a.m. - midnight

Sunday

2 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Ultimate Bowling

Saturday 8 p.m. - midnight
Sunday 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

League nights are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Limited open lanes Tuesdays and Fridays. No open lanes Thursdays from 5 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

For more information call 562-6895.

Pool Hours

Monday - Friday
Military Lap Swim 6 - 8 a.m.
Retirees/Dep. Lap Swim 10 - 11:30 a.m.
Active Duty/DOD Lap Swim 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Recreation Swim 1 - 5 p.m.

Saturday

Lap Swim 10:30 a.m. - noon
Recreation Swim noon - 6 p.m.
Hydro Aerobic Class 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Monday - Wednesday

Hydro Aerobic Class 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Griffith Class Schedule

For more information about activities at the Griffith Field house, or to verify class times, call 562-4888.

Monday

Cardio Kick Express 4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Total Toning 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday

Sculpting Express 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Spin-It noon - 12:45 p.m.
Intro to Fitness 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday

Circuit Training 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Thursday

Step & Sculpt noon - 12:45 p.m.
Pilates Fusion 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Friday

Spin-It noon - 12:45 p.m.